

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/763,800

**Applicant(s)**

EOFF ET AL.

**Examiner**

John J. Figueroa

**Art Unit**

1796

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE/Amendment filed February 3, 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,10,11,14,21,24-29,100-106,111-116,119-127,130-137,140-145,147,149-151 and 155-157.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 20090511.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/James J. Seidleck/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Larissa Piccardo on May 7, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 12, 13, 117, 118, 138 and 139.

Please **rejoin** the following claims that had been previously withdrawn (and change their status identifier to "Previously Presented"): claims 100-106, 111-116, 119-126, 133-136, 142, 143, 149-151 and 155-157.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for treating a subterranean formation, said method comprising adding to the formation a treatment fluid composition containing a permeability modifier including a hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer having a hydrophobic branch which comprises the specific organic acid derivatives recited in the present claims; wherein the water-soluble polymer has a molecular weight within the range of about 100,000 to about 10,000,000, and subsequently injecting an

aqueous fluid to a first zone of the formation, wherein the permeability modifier diverts a portion of said aqueous fluid from the first zone to a second zone of the formation.

3. The closest prior art is USPN 6,248,697 and U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2002/0123433 A1, both to Goodhue et al. ('Goodhue documents'). Although the Goodhue documents disclose adding a composition comprising a dodecylsuccinic anhydride modified starch polymer to a subterranean formation, these documents are drawn to applications involving drilling/excavating a borehole in a formation as opposed to the present claims, which are drawn to oil field applications involving diverting an aqueous treatment fluid from one zone to another in a well bore/formation. Moreover, the Goodhue documents do not teach or suggest its modified starch compounds to be water-soluble polymers having a high molecular weight within the range recited in the present independent claims.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571)272-8916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James J. Seidleck/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

JJF/JS